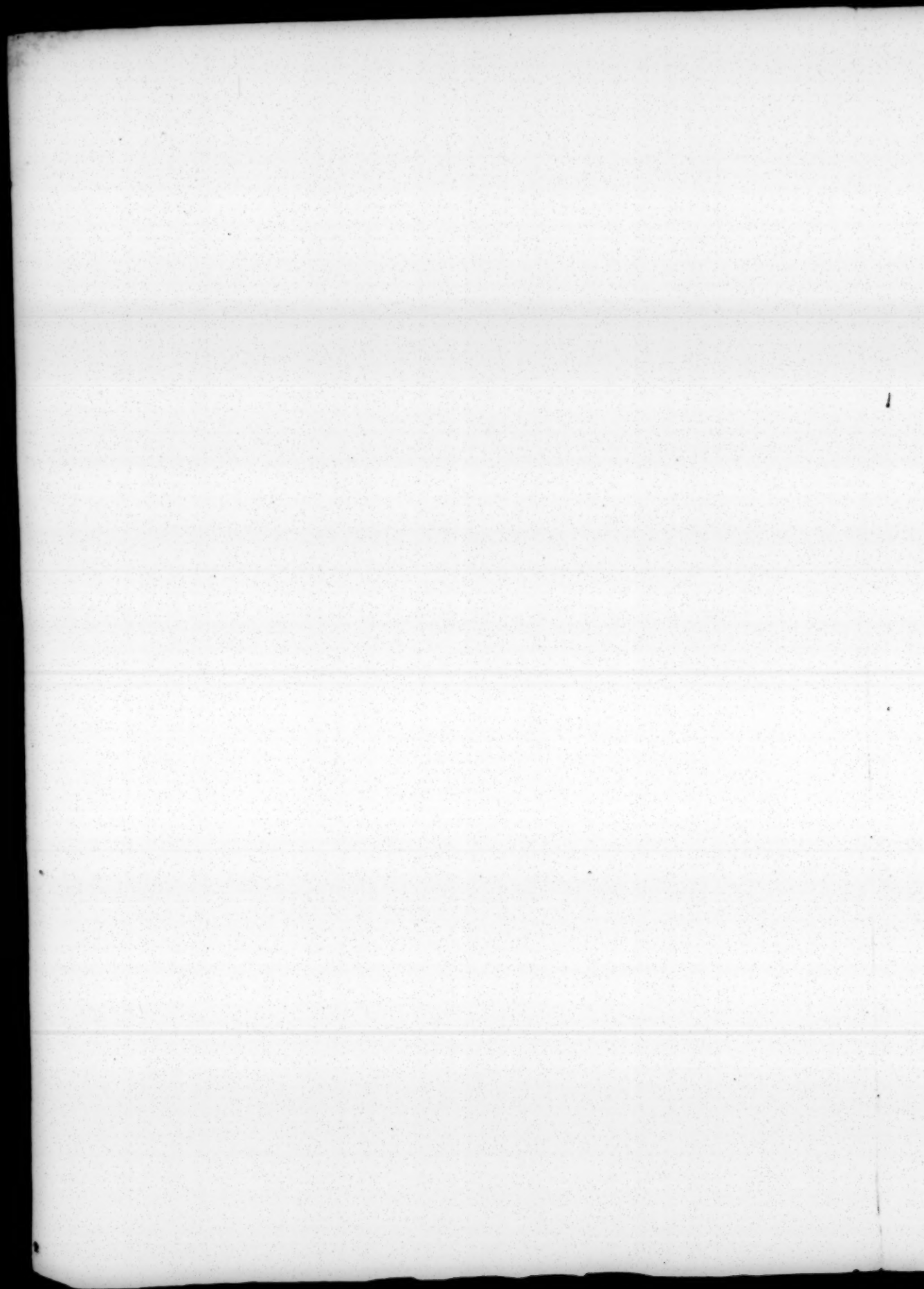


THREE ADDRESSES
TO
THE INHABITANTS OF THE
COUNTY OF HEREFORD,
In FAVOUR of the ESTABLISHMENT of a
PUBLIC INFIRMARY,
IN OR NEAR
THE CITY OF HEREFORD.

REPUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST AND EXPENCE OF
THE RIGHT HON. LORD VISCOUNT BATEMAN
LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE SAID COUNTY.

BY THOMAS TALBOT, D. D.
RECTOR OF ULLINGSWICK.

HEREFORD:
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A
P R O P O S A L
F O R
ERECTING AN INFIRMARY
AT HEREFORD.

[PUBLISHED AT THE MIDSUMMER
SESSIONS, 1763.]

TH E number of Infirmarys which have been erected in this kingdom, and the flourishing condition in which they continue, after many years experience, evidently shew the expediency and excellence of a like provision, wherever it can be made, for the relief of those unhappy persons who stand in need of such assistance; I mean, the laborious, industrious poor, the most useful part of society, the riches and strength of every country, who are under the united distresses of sickness and poverty; and who, in their best circumstances, have frequently too little to render their lives comfortable.

As there is a period put to the long and expensive war which the nation hath been engaged in, by a peace that seems to promise fair to be firm and lasting, one would now hope, that the evident success attending the Infirmarys, which have been provided in other counties, should encourage a like generous design, for the benefit of our own and its neighbourhood, and that nothing more can

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be necessary to excite the hearts of the benevolent, to contribute all in their power to begin and perfect this good work, than the laying before them a general view of the ends intended, and the benefits which may be expected from such an house of charity.

THE poor, in all ordinary and common cases, are provided for by Acts of Parliament, and officers appointed in every parish to take care of them. But no method hath been yet found out by the Legislature, to extend the public relief to numerous occasional objects of charity, who are disabled from making any provision for themselves and families, by long and painful distempers, or sudden and grievous accidents; and who, as they are not, and cannot be supplied by the Parish Officers, with such assistances as are absolutely necessary to their cure, must often inevitably perish without some farther relief. They have the misfortune to be too necessitous to supply themselves, and yet not indigent enough to be taken on the parish; and are therefore too generally left to languish in affliction, without any benevolent hand to afford them the necessaries they want; or to suffer through the wretched quackery of ignorant people; who, by pretending to cure, often destroy them, or by rash and unskilful applications increase their disorders, and leave them more miserable than they found them.

THE only effectual method hitherto found out, for supplying such indigent persons with every thing proper for their speedy recovery from disorders, and under the distressing accidents which befall them, hath been the opening Public Infirmaries, to be maintained by voluntary subscriptions and benefactions; into which all those poor and unhappy persons, who are deemed objects of such charity, may be received, sufficiently provided for, and taken under the care of a Physician and Surgeon, that they may be treated in the best manner, and as their several cases shall require,

To prevent any misapplication of subscriptions and benefactions, rules are made for every Infirmary now subsisting, and reports of the state of their affairs are published every year; from which may be collected all the necessary regulations, under which such an Infirmary may be established in this county, on a good and lasting foundation, without danger of any great mistake; since all those rules and orders have been found, by long experience, to be abundantly sufficient to promote the ends, and secure the continuance, of these extensively useful charities.

THE provision of an edifice, whether by building a new one, or repairing an old one, for the reception of the poor patients, is absolutely necessary to execute this benevolent scheme, for relieving those who are peculiarly the objects of it; since Physicians and Surgeons cannot give their attendance, nor can the proper medicines be dispensed with any conveniency, if the patients be wide from one another, and there be not a fixed place, where every thing may be transacted in reference to them. And though the providing such place must be attended with an extraordinary expence; yet it should be considered, that it comes but once; and, as it will render the execution of the charity much less expensive in many instances, this expence may justly be said to be annually decreasing; and, after some years, to be quite annihilated:—A consideration which should excite all the promoters of this excellent design to a more liberal subscription at the first, than it may ever afterwards be necessary for them to make.

’Tis a considerable advantage also to the patients themselves, to be placed in clean and wholesome apartments, and kept to a regular and proper diet, which in many cases is as much, or more necessary to them than physic itself. It is a farther advantage, that such edifice will be a repository for the medicines that are to be made use of; which may be procured at the easiest rates, and which, when administered by the prescription of an able Physician,

will be of so inconsiderable expence, as that much greater sums would not be of that extensive service to the patients, applied in any other way. The Infirmary also will be a proper place where the contributors are to meet, and transact the business appertaining to the charity: and as a considerable number of them will always be upon the spot, and have their weekly meetings, they will be able effectually to prevent any misapplications, or to rectify any accidental disorders.

It is farther worthy of observation, that some of our poor who have been distressed by sickness or accident, and could not get relief any other way, have been removed from this county to distant Infirmaries: but the expences of sending them thither, and of bringing them home again, are said to be much greater than would maintain such persons, and provide assistance and medicines for their recovery, could they be taken care of at an Infirmary in the county to which they belong.

THERE is a religious use to be made of this charity, which will undoubtedly have its weight with every good Christian. The Clergy have in other places, and doubtless would in this, attend by rotation, and officiate daily to the edification and comfort of the patients. There are many useful books which may be put into their hands, both in time of illness, and on their recovery; by the perusal of which, it may reasonably be hoped, many would go out of the Infirmary, greatly improved in their morals as well as in their health.

As therefore no inconvenience can arise out of the nature of the charity I have been recommending, or attend the execution of it, but what may be obviated by the rules and orders drawn up for the government of the several Hospitals already erected in this kingdom, and by the prudent management of the contributors:—As there are so many real and substantial benefits, which must arise from the careful and prudent direction of it:—As the persons to be provided for, by it, are the wretched and helpless, made so by distemper or
accident,

accident, who can have a seasonable remedy by no other provision:—Since the example of all the English counties around us recommend such an establishment for their benefit:—Since humanity, compassion, and Christian charity, powerfully plead in their favour, it is therefore most humbly and earnestly recommended to the Great and Good, to the Able and Benevolent, candidly and seriously to consider the nature and advantages of this proposal, and give their advice and assistance towards the effecting so laudable and useful a design. And as the Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy of this county are noways inferior to those of others, for their integrity, humanity of nature, Christian spirit, and abilities to do good; with their encouragement this excellent charity cannot fail of succeeding, nor such an Infirmary of being established, as shall do lasting honour to the founders of it, and be of perpetual service to the poor and miserable. The Gentlemen of our city, who profess physic and surgery, bear so worthy a character, that there can be no reason to doubt of their readiness to attend, without fee, or other reward than the pleasure of doing good, to such unhappy persons who may stand in need of their assistance; and our noble and generous Prelate hath given a convincing proof of his public spirit, by being so greatly instrumental in raising a spacious edifice for public utility. It would therefore be injustice to his amiable character, to doubt of his good wishes for the success of this proposal, or of his using every method, which can be reasonably expected from him, of contributing to the success of it. And should his Lordship think proper to patronize the design, by personally applying to those who are able to carry it into execution (a thing very little indeed to be expected from him, after such fatigue of this kind as he has already encountered), the good effect of it could not but be answerable to the warmest wishes of the benevolent. For we are very sensible, that, on a late charitable occasion, several hundred pounds were raised by his Lordship's

ship's example and influence, more than in all probability would ever have been advanced, without that engaging excitement.

THE person who has the pleasure of making this application should think himself extremely happy, could he contribute in any measure to the success of it. A tenderness of constitution, together with his private station in life, have rendered him ever unfit for applying personally on any such occasions. —But his love to his country, and his compassion for the unhappy, prompt him thus to address the Public; humbly hoping, that Providence will favour his good intentions, and that the importance and utility of the design will secure the general attention and encouragement.

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T O T H E
INHABITANTS OF HEREFORDSHIRE,
TO EXCITE THEM TO BE LIBERAL BENEFAC-
TORS TO THEIR INTENDED
INFIRMARY.

[Published at the MICHAELMAS SESSIONS, 1764.]

IT is now some considerable time, since the erecting an Infirmary for this County, by the charitable subscriptions and contributions of the Nobility, Gentry and Clergy belonging to it, hath been publicly recommended and urged, as a thing of great utility in it's nature, and in some measure of absolute necessity for the relief and safety of many of our poor. Hard surely is their Lot at best, who, by their very condition in life, are entirely deprived of almost every advantage which others in superior stations are possessed of, and forced by hard labour to earn, for themselves and families, a scanty maintenance, every week of their lives. Even on this account they deserve some degree of compassion from the great and wealthy; who can scarce manifest their gratitude to providence, in a more natural way, for the blessings they are distinguished with themselves, than by sometimes making their more indigent neighbours share with them,
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in the effects of that plenty, which God hath given them.

THE poor, 'tis true, whilst they have health and vigour, go thro' their labours, and sustain the inconveniences of their condition, with great chearfulness and spirit. But as they are liable to innumerable accidents, and to all the various kinds of diseases that infest and harrafs the bodies of men, which often render them incapable of working with their hands for their daily bread; how extremely unhappy must they be, if in such circumstances of affliction, they are unable to provide for their own relief, and have no assistance to expect from the benevolence and care of the publick! This is treating them like the very Outcasts of mankind, and unnaturally making that poverty, which should powerfully plead for them, the reason of abandoning them to utter misery and ruin.

THE poor of any nation are a very valuable part of it, and absolutely necessary to make riches themselves of any real use to the possessors of them. Without their labour our lands will lie uncultivated, and all our fruitful fields become as barren and desolate as the sandy desert. Our flocks and herds will diminish, without their care, and the various sources of our plenty soon fail, and leave us destitute and wretched. The temples of our God, the palaces of our nobles, the stately dwellings of the rich, all our public edifices, which proclaim the wealth and grandeur of the kingdom, will sink under their own ruins, and can never be restored, unless the hands of the industrious poor be employed in these important and necessary services. 'Tis to them we must be indebted for the pomp, the grandeur, the elegancies, and great conveniences of life. They are the supply of our armies, the resources of our fleets, the security of our commerce, and essential to the preservation and success of all our various manufactures and trades. They are, in a word, the strength and safety of kingdoms, and deserve, in a private and publick view,
all

all the friendly attention that can be shewn them, to prevent their distresses, or provide them with all the helps which are necessary to relieve and recover them.

PRIVATE charities are extreamly useful as far as they go, and shew the benevolence of their hearts who love to distribute them. But the influence of them is very contracted and narrow, and cannot reach to innumerable instances of affliction and misery, nor be equal to the wishes and desires of the compassionate and generous: Whereas Numbers of them, thrown into a common fund, and under the management of wise and faithful Trustees, become extensively beneficial; and every single contributor, whether he gives more or less, hath the pleasure of sharing in the assistance and relief of all those unhappy persons, who are objects of the general charity, tho' he hath never seen or known them, and to whom in his single capacity he could never have become a friend and benefactor.

THAT noble spirit of generosity and goodness, which hath discovered itself in the Metropolis, and many of the counties of this kingdom, by erecting and endowing publick edifices, sacred to charity, and appropriated to the relief of our unhappy poor, is the glory of the present age, and will be the admiration of the future. And how fully hath experience justified the great utility and unspeakable advantages arising from them! Persons of different persuasions here cordially unite in the same good work of charity and love. Religion itself receives great assistance from it, in the annual sermons preached on these occasions, by such persons as are of the highest orders of our clergy, and who are most distinguished for their piety and learning. Friendship and good will, union and harmony, amongst all the various degrees and parties of men, are cultivated and improved, not only by their all conspiring to carry on the same benevolent design, but by being indifferently admitted to share in the direction of it, and uniting in those

cheerful entertainments, which usually follow the publick exhortations at Church, to an imitation of Almighty God, by the exercise of mercy and goodness. The number of such as are relieved by these publick institutions is almost incredible. The doors of these Infirmaries are open to all without exception. There is no kind of misery capable of relief, which is excluded from them. Was there one or more of these Asylums in every one of our counties, our parishes wou'd be greatly eased of their burthens, the afflictions of every poor family wou'd be greatly alleviated, and almost each individual in them, in distress thro' distemper or accident, wou'd have this comfort under it, that he wou'd not be left to perish without pity or assistance. In these the best medicines will be prepared, and dispensed *gratis* to the poor. Careful Nurses will be provided, to attend them. Able Physicians and Surgeons will watch over and generously serve them, without fee, or any other reward, than the pleasure of doing good, and becoming, by Experience, more capable of promoting the general welfare in their respective professions and stations.

THE great success which hath attended a provision of this nature in a neighbouring county shou'd, methinks, excite the Inhabitants of ours, to enter into the most effectual methods of promoting and executing the same godlike scheme of mercy. We have many unhappy persons amongst us, who need and often deserve our care. We have as much compassion and goodness of heart, to influence us, as any of our Neighbours. The Estates of our Nobility and Gentry enable them to become liberal benefactors to it. The worthy Prelate who resides amongst us hath all that natural Generosity which Nobility inspires, and hath given us convincing proof of his publick Spirit. Encouraged by his Example, our clergy will cheerfully follow so amiable a pattern, and with pleasure excite their respective flocks, to lend their assistance to a service so acceptable to Almighty God, so truly

excellent and important in it's nature, and so extensively useful in it's effects. And though there may have been some late considerable discouragement on the cyder trade of this county, yet the not checking the spirit of charity under such a disadvantage, will make that charity the more meritorious, and and be a just foundation to support the hope, that Providence may, sooner or later, direct to some proper methods for removing the difficulty complained of.

It is therefore humbly hoped, that an undertaking of such real and great Importance, which long experience hath demonstrated the advantages of, which the example of many other counties strongly recommends, which the wants and miseries of the poor render even necessary, which the goodness of the thing itself shews the propriety and fitness of, which the dictates of humanity, and the generous spirit inspired by the Religion of our blessed Saviour so powerfully prompt to, which affords so grateful a pleasure to the hearts of those who begin, and persevere to promote it, which ensures a reward from the most benevolent of all beings, and will draw down a thousand prayers and blessings upon the persons and families of the worthy contributors to it, from those who reap the benefit of their charity: In a word, it is humbly hoped, and earnestly requested, that a work which must be productive of so much good to Individuals, which will be so honourable to this county, and conducive to the publick welfare, will be seriously considered; and that persons of all ranks and conditions in life, of all interests and persuasions, will give their advice and assistance, to carry into execution and perfect so excellent and useful a design. Our Wealth and Plenty cannot be employed in a service which will tend more to the honour of Almighty God, or is better calculated to promote the real interests of mankind.

T. T.

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N O B I L I T Y , G E N T R Y , A N D C L E R G Y
O F T H E
C O U N T Y O F H E R E F O R D .

[Published at the MICHAELMAS SESSIONS, 1774.]

M Y L O R D S A N D G E N T L E M E N ,

SOME years have now elapsed, since I did myself the honour of addressing you on the subject of a COUNTY INFIRMARY ; in consequence of which subscriptions were solicited to carry the design into execution: but the proposal, from perhaps the unfavourable circumstances of the time in which it was made, did not then succeed. It will however be recorded in the grateful memory of the poor of this county, that certain Gentlemen testified their approbation of this benevolent scheme, proposing ample contributions; and that the Lord Bishop of the diocese not only recommended it by a circular letter to his Clergy, but so zealously interested himself in it as to open books in his own house, for the accommodation of those, who should be inclined to enter their names as contributors.

THIS was then thought a good omen; and as his Lordship and those gentlemen are, 'tis hoped,
still

still living, there is no reason to doubt their concurrence in continuing to encourage a proposal, the ill success of which hitherto is imputed more to accidental causes than to any want of humanity or beneficence in the more wealthy inhabitants of Herefordshire:—a proposal which deliberation has adopted, and experience approved in almost every other county; and which all the maxims of wisdom, and all the duties of charity conspire to recommend.

To enumerate the various claims which intitle the Industrious Poor to our sympathy and compassion—to recount the advantages arising from their labour, or the hardships to which the most zealous and active benevolence must for ever leave them exposed—to represent the reasonableness of expecting, that they who contribute to render riches the means of ease and pleasure to those who possess them, should from the same source derive some mitigation of their own miseries; or to declare with what solemnity Religion enforces the duty of alleviating the sorrows of the afflicted, would be only repeating what has been often urged, and asserting what is generally acknowledged.

THE case of the Poor is at all times sufficiently mortifying. In recompence for the fatigues of toil, and the badges of servitude, they enjoy not any exemption from the other evils of life. They are subject, in common with their superiors, to the diseases and maladies of human nature, and are besides exposed to many casual injuries incident to their humble and dependant condition. Meanly lodged, barely cloathed and coarsely fed, they must endure the inclemencies of the varying seasons: they must work in the sun and travel in the storm. be violently heated and suddenly chilled. Many of their trades are unwholesome; and many kinds of labour dangerous. These gradually impair their constitution, and expose them to various maladies and disasters: and having consumed their little savings on ignorant pretenders to the healing art, they are consigned over to a parish-workhouse; in
which,

which, it is to be feared, sufficient care is seldom taken to restore the health, or secure the cleanliness and quiet of the wretched inhabitants.

LET me here intreat the rich and prosperous to reflect a moment on this desolate and deplorable condition of so many of their Fellow-creatures and Fellow-Christians. Sicknes, Sirs, is of itself a burthen heavy enough, though you languish upon beds of down, and have all the relief you can derive from the skill of physicians, the attendance of servants and friends, with every other additional accommodation which the most plentiful fortune can procure. What then must it be to bear all this, and perhaps more than this, in the want of all things! What must it be for a person, who perhaps found it hard enough to live, when he was in all the vigour of nature, to see himself, while under languor, pain and sickness, destitute of medicines, destitute of attendance, destitute of convenient food and lodging! Who, that hath the feelings of a man, must not pity, and wish to relieve such an object! And, in what way can he be so effectually relieved as in that here proposed? An infirmary is immediate relief. It takes off a load of anxiety from the oppressed spirit of the patient, alleviates the sorrows of his distressed family, and is said to afford an entire cure to Nine hundred out of a Thousand; one half of whom might otherwise have perished for want of timely and proper assistance.

As an honourable and reverend Author observes, "Pain blended with poverty, fractured limbs, ulcerated wounds, complicated complaints, and several lingering disorders to which the lower and laborious part of the human species are, by their situation, more particularly subject, have often solicited relief: but, solicited in vain till these institutions were formed.—And all the cures, which Sagacity improved by Learning and Experience can effect, are wrought in them. And, if a Civic Crown was the reward given by a much celebrated and political people to a person rescuing a single citizen from impending danger, what is not due to the founders
and

and supporters of these houses of mercy, and to the physicians and surgeons who voluntarily attend them, and, by a virtuous application of their natural and acquired powers, rescue their afflicted brethren from misery, or the grave!"

I AM aware that some beneficent establishments have been objected to, as unpropitious to the industry and frugality of the common people; and speculatists, who never tasted the bitter cup of adversity, have been lavish of their censures on the day-labourer and manufacturer, as improvident and wasteful: and they have for many years been circulating reports on this head, which, however designed, can have no other tendency than to extinguish compassion, and to enervate the kind hand of Charity.

WITH what plausibility such accusations might have been urged half a century ago, is not for me to determine. But, if there ever was a time, when the labouring husbandman and mechanic had it in their power to lay up part of their wages, that time is no more. The price of every thing, by which life is supported, hath risen by an increase so great and so rapid, as not to leave to the poor any scope for the operation of frugality. The labourer cannot now, with his utmost industry, earn daily bread for his family. Let the humane and benevolent then judge, what provision he is able to make for the misfortunes of to-morrow.

THIS great and rapid advance of our markets is too notorious to want any formal proof: but it may possibly startle some young house-keepers to be informed, that the average-price of the necessaries of life is almost doubled within the last sixteen or twenty years.

To balance the increased expence necessary for the support of the poor labourer and his family, what advance has been made in his wages? The husbandman who formerly worked for *Tenpence* a day, has now, on some farms, a *Shilling*. So that while his expence is increased near *one half*, his wages are advanced only a *sixth part*.

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THE equity of this treatment may admit of some doubt.—But I suppose the hardship is considered as temporary, to which the next year of plenty will put an end; and which ought therefore to be borne with patience, as part of the casual calamities of life.

No one would rejoice more than the Author of this Address, to find such a supposition well grounded. But it is to be feared, that *Scarcity* is the least cause of the evil complained of. There are other causes, in the opinion of persons skilled in these matters, far more formidable and permanent—causes which they suppose will continue to operate as long as the existence of the National Debt, and of that Opulence, with which Wars and Commerce have already supplied, and may still more exuberantly supply great numbers of our individuals, to the increase of luxury, the bane of the greatest and most flourishing empires. Be this as it may, there is no prospect at present of seeing the price of provisions reduced to the standard of former years. And since the hardships of the poor are universally admitted, it is surely our duty to give them every relief which Providence puts into our power, and not to suffer disaster and malady to overwhelm those of our fellow-creatures, whom even health and vigour can but barely sustain.

I HAVE already in this address suggested my opinion of parochial workhouses. I mean not to blame the managers of those legal institutions. The radical cure for their defects or irregularities is only to be expected from the wisdom which formed them. 'Tis certain, however, that in their best state, they cannot supercede the utility or necessity of a Public Infirmary; since it is beyond the power of any country parish, to provide suitable and sufficient accommodation for its sick and maimed poor: or if this were attainable, proper advice would still be wanting. A skilful surgeon or physician is not to be found in every parish; and when their residence is distant, it is not to be expected they should give due attendance to a poor patient.

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Upon this principle the most virulent declaimers against modern charities very frankly allow, that hospitals for the sick and lame are *necessary*.

It is, moreover, expedient to have a variety of disorders collected together, for the instruction of young students; who, by attending the practice of learned and experienced physicians and surgeons, in such hospitals, gain more knowledge in a few months than by private business can be obtained in several years; whereby many useful and important lives are preserved to the community. These foundations therefore are necessary in a political view.

THERE is not in short any kind of charity hitherto devised by the benevolent Public, which does in the least supercede the necessity of that here recommended: nor do the objections urged against other charitable foundations militate against this. An Infirmary is not a nursery of idleness, nor a harbour for pride; it gives no shelter to the lazy, nor encouragement to the vicious. Its benefactions must be wanted before they are obtained, nor can they be enjoyed any longer than they are wanted. Diseases cannot often be feigned; and the medical regimen of an Infirmary will scarce tempt any person to feign them. Wounds and fractures are always visible; nor is the cure, when a cure is wrought, less apparent than the disease. No patients therefore will be admitted into such houses of mercy without sufficient cause; and none, when the cause is removed, will be suffered to remain. He who entered diseased and spiritless is sent away vigorous and chearful: the father is restored to his family, and the labourer to the publick.

The only question then is, How shall an Infirmary—the utility, expediency and necessity of which are beyond all doubt—How shall such an asylum for the diseased poor be established among us? I answer, By the same means that the like establishments have taken place throughout the nation. Let our Representatives in parliament (who are wished to be active in promoting such an institution), or any ~~other~~ gentlemen of rank and property,

perty, take the lead in a generous subscription; and I doubt not but it will be followed by the whole county. Many fervent prayers will daily be offered up to heaven for the success of this benevolent design; and many generous souls among both clergy and laity are waiting the opportunity of contributing to its success. If it fails, it must be for want of a Patron among the Noble and Opulent. That this should be the obstacle, God forbid! I have too good an opinion, of the Nobility and Gentry of this county, to suppose, that they are less humane, less bountiful, or less disposed to alleviate the sufferings of their fellow-creatures and fellow-christians than gentlemen of the same rank and fortune in other parts of the kingdom.

If it be yet urged—and it is the only plausible objection which can be urged,—That Herefordshire being less extensive, less populous, and less affluent than some of the neighbouring counties, it cannot so well bear the expence of the proposed institution; the answer is obvious. Erect or hire a building proportionable to your number and circumstances; and make a fair trial of the event. To be discouraged from undertaking any work of faith or labour of love by imaginary difficulties is unworthy a rational, an immortal being. The duty we owe to God and our species is, to improve the present moment, and to do all the good in our power. Every worthy man therefore must feel his heart glow with ardent wishes for the success of this charitable proposal: and every gentleman, who owes obligations to this county, will be inexcusable, if he does not exert himself with zeal and activity to promote it.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I HUMBLY take my leave with earnest prayer, that the GREAT PATRON of the Poor and Afflicted may open your hearts to consider their distresses,
and

and that he may reward every person who shall contribute to their relief, with health, prosperity and peace in this life, and with honour, glory, and immortality in that, where *the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick.* ISAI. xxxiii. ver. 24.

T. T.

F I N I S.

